

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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FROM: LONDON

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NO: 4178, FEBRUARY 10, 5 PM

SENT DEPARTMENT 4178; REPEATED INFORMATION PARIS 649, BONN 260, MOSCOW 159, BERLIN 85.

PARIS FOR EMBASSY, USRO, CINCEUR

BONN PASS USAREUR

REFERENCE: DEPARTMENTS 1227 TO MOSCOW, MOSCOW'S TELEGRAM 1588 AND EMBTEL 4153.

EMBASSY CONCURS IN MOSCOW'S MISGIVINGS REGARDING DESIRABILITY OF RAISING QUESTION INSPECTION WITH SOVIETS AT GOVERNMENTAL LEVEL THIS TIME WHICH BRITISH ALSO APPEAR INCLINED TO QUESTION.

IN ADDITION TO CONSIDERATIONS SET FORTH MOSCOW REFTEL, WE BELIEVE THAT DESPITE FACT PROPOSED NOTE HISTORICALLY CORRECT IN DETAILING CONSISTENT ADHERENCE TO UNRESTRICTED RIGHT OF ACCESS TO BERLIN, STORY AS PORTRAYED IN PROPOSED TEXT OF VARIOUS VICISSITUDES OUR MAINTENANCE THIS POSITION OVER THE YEARS INEVITABLY PRESENTS LESS THAN CLEAR CUT PICTURE AND THUS IMPACT OF NOTE ON WESTERN PUBLIC OPINION LIKELY TO BE DIFFUSE. CONSEQUENTLY IF IT IS SUBSEQUENTLY DECIDED TO PROCEED ALONG THIS LINE, WHICH WE CONCUR SHOULD PREFERABLY AWAIT FURTHER SOVIET ACTION, IT IS OUR FEELING THAT A SHORTER NOTE CONFINED TO CITING DOCUMENTS AND INSTANCES IN WHICH SOVIETS HAVE ACQUIESCED IN OUR POSITION WOULD BE MORE READILY UNDERSTANDABLE THAN THE CURRENT DRAFT WHICH ALSO INCLUDES RECORD OF SOVIET CHALLENGES TO OUR RIGHTS.

WHITNEY

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